

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 DODE-00 NSC-05

ACDA-07 CU-02 EB-07 COME-00 /098 W

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R 301701Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2519

INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY ANAKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

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AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

AMEMBASSY VIENNA
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION USBERLIN UNN
USMISSION GENEVA
UEHMOL/AMCONSUL LENINGRAD 48
AMCONSUL POZNAN
AMCONSUL KRAKOW
AMCONSUL ZAGREB

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BERLIN 5804

E O 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, CSCE
SUBJ: MONITORING OF WARSAW PACT IMPLEMENTATION - GERMAN
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

REFS: A) STATE 84043; B) BERLIN 5573; C) 75 BERLIN 6611

1. SUMMARY: THIS TELEGRAM REPRESENTS AN UPDATE OF THE CHECKLIST OF GDR ACTIVITIES WITH REGARD TO CSCE MATTERS AS REQUESTED IN REF A. IT IS TO BE COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS EMBASSY CHECKLIST REPORT OF OCTOBER, 1975, (REF C) AS ADUMBRATED BY REF B IN MARCH, 1976. THE INDIVIDUAL ITEMS ARE KEYED TO THE QUESTIONS POSED IN REF A. END SUMMARY.

2. WORKING CONDITIONS FOR US BUSINESSMEN

A. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THERE HAS BEEN ANY CHANGE IN THE BASIC APPROACH OF THE GDR TOWARD THE PROVISION OF WORKING CONDITIONS FOR US AND OTHER FOREIGN BUSINESSMEN. ACCESS TO END USERS CONTINUES TO BE VERY RESTRICTED.

B. WITHIN AN ESSENTIALLY UNCHANGED FRAMEWORK, THERE HAS BEEN MODEST BILATERAL PROGRESS. IT APPEARS THAT THE FIRST REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE OF US FIRM IN EAST BERLIN WILL BE OPENING IN THE COMING MONTHS.

C. NO CHANGE.

D. ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL DATA ARE AVAILABLE ONLY IN THE SAME LIMITED QUANTITIES AS HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE
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CASE.

E. THE GDR IS PURSUING CONTACTS WITH A NUMBER OF LARGE US FIRMS WITH A VIEW TO CONCLUDING UMBRELLA TRADE AND COOPERATION AGREEMENTS WITH THEM. ONE SUCH AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED AT THE SPRING 1976 LEIPZIG FAIR, AND OTHERS ARE IN THE OFFING.

3. FAMILY MEETINGS

A. PROVIDED BY DEPARTMENT.)

B. GDR CITIZENS WHO HAVE REACHED THE AGE OF PENSIONING, E.G. 65 YEARS FOR MEN AND 60 FOR WOMEN, ARE ABLE TO TRAVEL ABROAD. MOST AMERICAN CITIZENS CAN VISIT FAMILY IN THE GDR. HOWEVER, THE SYSTEM OF EXIT PERMITS AND VISA ISSUANCE IS CUMBERSOME AND THE ATMOSPHERE IN WHICH IT FUNCTIONS IS ESSENTIALLY UNFRIENDLY TO THE FREE MOVEMENT OF PEOPLES. AMERICAN CITIZENS CAN ENCOUNTER DIFFICULTIES IF THEY WISH TO VISIT RELATIVES IN THE GDR WHO ARE CONSIDERED "BEARERS OF SECRETS".

C. THERE HAS BEEN NO EASING OF THE SYSTEM AND ONLY ONE CHANGE SINCE THE SIGNING OF THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT (SEE 75 BERLIN 6858).

4. FAMILY REUNIFICATIONS

A. 37 APPLICATIONS.

B. (PROVIDED BY DEPARTMENT).

C. 26 UNSUCCESSFUL APPLICATIONS TO GDR AUTHORITIES FOR FAMILY REUNIFICATION.

D. THE GDR AUTHORITIES PLACE GREAT DIFFICULTIES IN FACILITATING FAMILY REUNIFICATION BY DENYING IN VERY MANY INSTANCES APPROVAL TO DEPART.

IN THOSE INSTANCES WHERE THEY PERMIT EMIGRATION, THEY REQUIRE MUCH COMPLICATED PAPERWORK FROM THE INDIVIDUAL IN AN ATTEMPT TO DISCOURGE OR DELAY FINAL DEPARTURE.

E. ONLY SIX FAMILY REUNIFICATION CASES HAVE BEEN RESOLVED FAVORABLY SINCE THE SIGNING OF THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT.

F. COST APPROXIMATE AS FOLLOWS:

AUTHENTICATED BIRTH CERTIFICATE - MARKS 5.00 (\$2.00)

AUTHENTICATED MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE - MARKS 5.00

PASSPORTS - COST VARY

EXIT PERMIT - MARKS 5.00

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POLICE CERTIFICATE - RARELY AVAILABLE - THEN FRE OF CHARGE.

5. BINATIONAL MARRIAGES

A. 4 MARRIAGES

B. 4 MARRIAGES

C. 3 CASES

D. THE GDR AUTHORITIES ARE DELAYING BOTH APPROVAL OF MARRIAGES AND SUBSEQUENT EXIT PERMITS FOR THE FOREIGN FIANCEES. ABOUT 10 CASES OF IS/GDR ENGAGED COUPLE ARE PRESENTLY WAITING MARRIAGE APPROVAL BY THE AUTHORITIES HERE. MOST OF THESE CASES HAVE BEEN PENDING MORE THAN TWO YEARS AND ALL BEGAN AT LEAST ONE YEAR AGO.

6. TRAVEL AND TOURISM

A. (PROVIDED BY DEPARTMENT.)

B. NO STATISTICS ARE RELEASED BY THE GDR. HOWEVER, WE NOTE THAT A VERY LARGE NUMBER OF AMERICANS TRAVEL INTO THE SOVIET SECTOR OF BERLIN ON SO-CALLED "DAY-VISITS (COSTING MARKS 6.50). THESE PERSONS MAY NOT LEAVE THE SOVIET SECTOR TO VISIT THE REST OF GDR AND MUST REMAIN IN THE SOVIET SECTOR LESS THAN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS. THE GDR WOULD COUNT SUCH VISITORS AS "TOURIST TO THE GDR" UNDER THEIR THEORY THAT BERLIN IS THE CAPITAL OF THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC. WE BELIEVE THAT MUCH OF THE LARGEST NUMBER OF AMERICANS WHO TRAVEL IN AREAS UNDER GDR JURISDICTION ARE EITHER DAY VISITORS TO THE SOVIET SECTOR OR TRANSIT TRAVELERS ENROUTE TO OTHER COUNTRIES SUCH AS POLAND, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, AND THE SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRIES.

C. 24 HOURS FOR NON-WAIVER CASES; TEN TO FOURTEEN DAYS FOR WAIVER CASES. \$8.50.

D. "DAY VISITS" FROM WEST BERLIN TO EAST BERLIN - A FEW MINUTES. OTHER VISAS - SEVERAL WEEKS DEPENDING ON CONFIRMATION OF HOTEL RESERVATIONS OR A PLACE TO STAY. THE GDR MAKES A DISTINCTION BETWEEN GETTING THE VISA, WHICH TAKES ONLY A FEW MINUTES, AND GETTING THE "VISA ENTITLEMENT CERTIFICATE" WHICH REQUIRES PROOF OF HOTEL RESERVATIONS OR AN INVITATION FROM A PRIVATE GDR CITIZEN. OBTAINING THE VISA ENTITLEMENT CERTIFICATE CAN TAKE SEVERAL WEEKS. MULTIPLE ENTRY VISAS COST MARKS 40.00 AND SINGLE ENTRY VISAS MARKS 15.
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TOURISTS ARE REQUIRED TO EXCHANGE MARKS 13. OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE PER DAY DURING THEIR VISIT HERE.

E. A CRUDE ESTIMATE IS ABOUT EIGHT WEEKS.

F. NO CHANGE SINCE HELSINKI. THE SYSTEM IS AS CHARACTERIZED 3B ABOVE.

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7. INFORMATION.

A. THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE IN THE AVAILABILITY OF US NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES IN THE GDR FROM THAT REPORTED IN PREVIOUS MESSAGES ON THE SUBJECT. DURING THE LEIPZIG SPRING FAIR, THE PARIS HERALD TRIBUNE WAS USUALLY AVAILABLE ON REQUEST AT THE TWO MAJOR HOTELS FREQUENTED BY FOREIGNERS. NO OTHER US NEWSPAPERS WERE AVAILABLE AND NO MAGAZINES. MOREOVER, THE PARIS HERALD TRIBUNE WAS ONLY AVAILABLE DURING THE LESS THAN TWO WEEK PERIOD THE FAIR WAS OPEN. CURIOUSLY, THE DAILY WORLD, THE ORGAN OF THE US COMMUNIST PARTY, IS NOT REGULARLY DISPLAYED AND AVAILABLE AT GDR NEWSSTANDS.

B. AMERICAN PUBLICATIONS ARE NOT AVAILABLE TO LOCAL NATIONS AT NEWSSTANDS. THEY ARE AVAILABLE IN A LIMITED NUMBER OF TITLES TO A PRIVILEGED FEW THROUGH RESTRICTED LIBRARIES AND BY CONTROLLED SUBSCRIPTION.

C. GDR PERFORMANCE SINCE HELSINKI ON PRINTED INFORMATION FROM THE US HAS NOT CHANGED AND REMAINS VERY RESTRICTIVE.

D. THE NUMBER OF US FILMS SHOWING COMMERCIALY IN GDR CINEMAS HAS INCREASED IN THE PAST FEW MONTHS TO ABOUT FIVE OR SIX. A LEADING EAST BERLIN CINEMA LISTS "THE DAY OF THE DOLPHIN", "NEVEDA SMITH" (PEKINPAH) AND "KLUTE" FOR SINGLE SHOWINGS ON ITS MAY PROGRAM. "KLUTE" IS A CLOSED PERFORMANCE. ANOTHER JANE FONDA FILM, "THE SHOOT HORSES DON'T THEY?" HAS ALSO PLAYED RECENTLY. FILM TITLES CONTINUE TO APPEAR TO BE SELECTED ON THE BASIS OF CONTENT CRITICAL OF US OR WESTERN
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SOCIETY.

THERE HAS BEEN NO INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF US FILMS SHOWN ON GDR TV AND THERE HAVE BEEN NO SPEICAL SHOWINGS OF WHICH THE EMBASSY IS AWARE. A FEW OLD AMERICAN FILMS DRAWN FROM THE EXTENSIVE GDR FILM ARCHIVES ARE SHOWN ON TV. THE EMBASSY HAS PROPOSED A US FILM RETROSPECTIVE SHOWING IN RETURN FOR THE GDR FILM RETROSPECTIVE SPONSORED BY THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART IN NEW YORK CITY, BUT HAS RECEIVED NO RESPONSE TO THE OFFER.

E. THE GDR CONTINUES TO JAM THE MEDIUM WAVE BROADCASTS OF RIAS IN MAJOR CITIES AND TOWNS. IN THE COUNTRYSIDE, ASIDE FROM AREAS IMMEDIATELY PERIPHERAL TO A MAJOR COMMUNITY, THE (GROUND WAVE TYPE) JAMMING IS NOT EFFECTIVE. OTHER AMERICAN BROADCASTERS ARE NOT JAMMED, NOR DO THEY BROADCAST SPECIFICALLY TO THE GDR.

F. GDR PERFORMANCE SINCE HELSINKI ON FILMED AND BROADCAST INFORMATION HAS CONCENTRATED ON PROMOTING

INFORMATION ON THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES OF THE WARSAW PACT, WHILE CONTINUING TO RESTRICT INFORMATION ON THE NON-COMMUNIST COUNTRIES OF WESTERN EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA. AN EXCEPTION TO THIS RULE IS INFORMATION ORIGINATING IN THE GDR AND THE SOCIALIST WORLD WHICH ADVANCES THE GDR LINE.

8. WORKING CONDITIONS FOR JOURNALISTS.

A. PERMANENT ACCREDITATION OF AMERICAN NEWSMEN CONTINUES TO BE HUNG UP ON THE GDR REFUSAL TO ACCREDIT THOSE RESIDENT IN THE FRG AND WEST BERLIN. CONSEQUENTLY, NO AMERICAN NEWSMEN HAVE BEEN GRANTED MULTIPLE ENTRY/EXIT VISAS IN CONNECTION WITH PERMANENT ACCREDITATION WITH THE EXCEPTION OF TWO CORRESPONDENTS OF THE COMMUNIST "DAILY WORLD", WHO HAVE BEEN PERMANENTLY ACCREDITED TO THE GDR FOR SOME TIME.

ON THE OTHER HAND, A SPRINKLING OF SINGLE ENTRY VISAS HAS BEEN GRANTED TO AMERICAN JOURNALISTS NOT PERMANENTLY ACCREDITED, ESPECIALLY IN CONNECTION WITH THE LEIPZIG SPRING FAIR. THE EMBASSY IS AWARE OF 4-5 SUCH VISAS, ALTHOUGH A MAJORITY OF AMERICAN NEWSMEN STILL COME ON JUST A "DAY PASS" TO EAST BERLIN.

B. OTHER THAN AMERICAN CORRESPONDENTS RESIDENT
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IN THE FRG OR WEST BERLIN, THE EMBASSY DOES NOT KNOW OF ANY US CORRESPONDENTS REFUSED VISAS OUTRIGHT IN THE PERIOD SINCE HELSINKI. NEVERTHELESS, SEVERAL HAVE BEEN ALLOWED TO COME TO THE GDR, BUT HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO SEE THE PEOPLE AND DO THE THINGS THEY WANTED TO DO. THESE INCLUDE THE DIRECTOR OF VOA'S EASTERN EUROPEAN BUREAU IN MUNICH.

C. PROGRAMS AND VISAS HAVE BEEN DELAYED FOR US CORRESPONDENTS WANTING TO COVER GDR SPORTS IN THE PRE-OLYMPIC PERIOD. HOWEVER, THE GDR HAS JUST COME UP WITH A GROUP SPORTS TOUR WHICH INCLUDES REPRESENTATIVES OF THE AMERICAN MEDIA WHICH HAVE MADE FORMAL APPLICATION TO COVER GDR SPORTS.

D. THE ONLY AMERICAN JOURNALISTS NOW PERMANENTLY ACCREDITED TO THE GDR ARE TWO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COMMUNIST DAILY WORLD.

E. THE EMBASSY'S KNOWLEDGE, NO AMERICAN JOURNALISTS HAVE BEEN EXPELLED FROM THE GDR SINCE HELSINKI.

F. FOR CORRESPONDENTS PERMANENTLY ACCREDITED TO THE GDR, FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT IS UNRESTRICTED, ALTHOUGH HOTELS IN GIVEN COMMUNITIES FREQUENTLY ARE "FULLY BOOKED". WEST GERMAN CORRESPONDENTS PERMANENTLY ACCREDITED TO THE GDR COMPLAIN OF ALMOST COMPLETE LACK OF ACCESS TO LOCAL SOURCES. AMERICAN JOURNALISTS APPLYING FOR VISAS

FOR INDIVIDUAL VISITS ARE REQUIRED TO USE THE SERVICES OF "PANORAMA", THE NEWS SERVICE AGENCY, WHICH IS EXPENSIVE AND NOT ALWAYS EFFICIENT. HOWEVER, THEY MUST SPECIFY IN THEIR VISAS APPLICATION WHERE THEY WANT TO GO AND WHOM THEY WANT TO SEE. THEY MUST CONTENT THEMSELVES WITH WHAT "PANORAMA" ARRANGES.

AMERICAN CORRESPONDENTS NOT INFREQUENTLY HAVE EXPERIENCED DIFFICULTY IN IMPORTING TAPE RECORDERS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. THE GENERAL PRESSURE IS IN THE DIRECTION OF HIRING "PANORAMA" SERVICES. COMMUNICATION WITH THE WETST IS DIFFICULT, ALTHOUGH THE EMBASSY IS NOT AWARE OF SPECIAL DIFFICULTIES AMERICAN CORRESPONDENTS HAVE ENCOUNTERED IN CALLING OR TELEGRAMMING THEIR HOME OFFICES. MOST OF THEM PREFER TO CARRY THEIR STORIES OUT WITH THEM RATHER THAN TAKING THE TIME, EFFORT AND CHANCE INVOLVED IN TRANSMITTING STORIES VIA GDR CHANNELS.
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